Ancient Indian Knowledge System

By Dr. Satyabrata Dash

The Indian Knowledge Systems comprise of Jnan, Vignan, and Jeevan Darshan that have evolved out of experience, observation, experimentation, and rigorous analysis.

How old is Sanatan Civilization

- If we consider the Vedic Scriptures, it is considered that 50 years of Lord Brahma, the material engineer and creator of the material world, have elapsed.
- We are currently on the first day of the 51st year.
- Within this day, six Manvantaras have already passed. We are living in the seventh Manvantara, named as Vaivasvatha Manvantara.
- In this Manvantara (Vivaswat), 27 Mahayugas, the Krita, Treta, and Dwapara Yugas of the 28th Mahayugas have elapsed.
- This Kaliyuga is in the 28th Mahayuga.

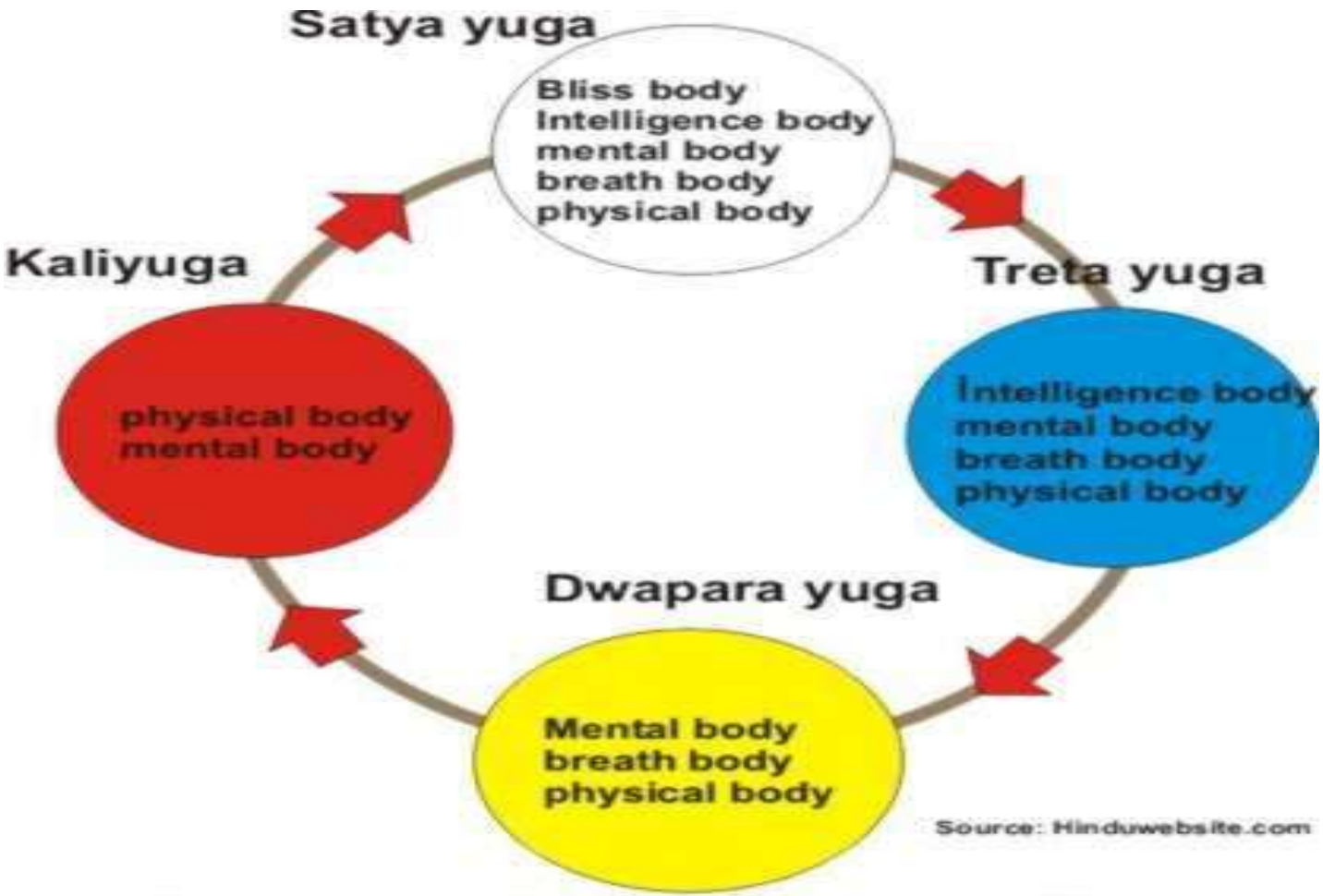
DIVINE YEARS

Krita	Yuga	4000	
	Sandhyá	400	
	Sandyásana	400	
	subtotal		4800
Treta	Yuga	3000	
	Sandhyá	300	
	Sandyásana	300	
	subtotal		3600
Dwapara	Yuga	2000	
	Sandhyá	200	
	Sandyásana	200	
	subtotal		2400
Kali	Yuga	1000	
	Sandhyá	100	
	Sandyásana	100	
	subtotal		1200
	total		12,000

Saptarshi position centre to Dhruv Star in 4 yugas

Yuga	Begins	Ends	Duration
Descending Satya Yuga (Golden Age)	12,676 BCE	9976 BCE	2700 years
Transitional Period	9976 BCE	9676 BCE	300 years
Descending Treta Yuga (Silver Age)	9676 BCE	6976 BCE	2700 years
Transitional Period	6976 BCE	6676 BCE	300 years
Descending Dwapara Yuga (Bronze Age)	**6676 BCE**	3976 BCE	2700 years
Transitional Period	3976 BCE	3676 BCE	300 years
Descending Kali Yuga (Iron Age)	3676 BCE	976 BCE	2700 years
Transitional Period	976 BCE	676 BCE	300 years
Ascending Kali Yuga (Iron Age)	**676 BCE**	**2025 CE**	**2700 years**
Transitional Period	2025 CE	2325 CE	300 years
Ascending Dwapara Yuga (Bronze Age)	2325 CE	5025 CE	2700 years
Transitional Period	5025 CE	5325 CE	300 years
Ascending Treta Yuga (Silver Age)	5325 CE	8025 CE	2700 years
Transitional Period	8025 CE	8325 CE	300 years
Ascending Satya Yuga (Golden Age)	8325 CE	11,025 CE	2700 years
Transitional Period	11,025 CE	11,325 CE	300 years
Complete Yuga Cycle			**24000 years**

The popularly accepted date for the beginning of the Kali Yuga is 3102 BCE, thirty-five years after the conclusion of the great battle of the Mahabharata.



Epochs And Body Awareness of Beings

The Saraswati civilization

By Dr. Hiro Badlani

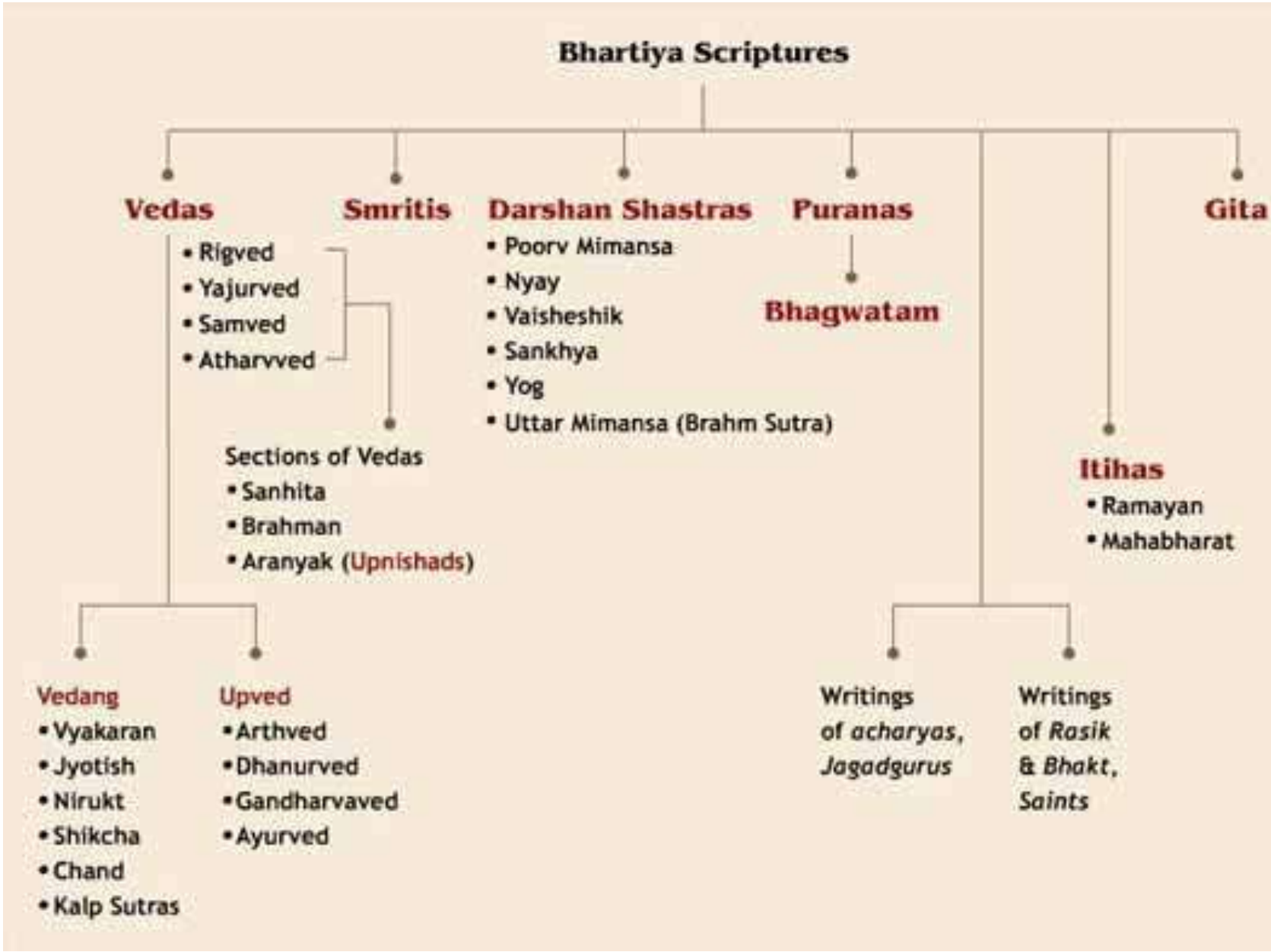
- It was the oldest and largest civilization in the ancient world .
- The Saraswati civilization, also known as the Indus-Sarasvati or Sindhu-Sarasvati civilization, or Vedic civilization.
- Around 10,000 years ago, at the end of the last Ice Age, a cluster of seven rivers, the Sapta Sindhu – Sindhu (Indus), Chenab, Jhelum, Ravi, Beas, Kubha and the now extinct Saraswati – emerged from the great Himalayas in the North, and travelling across the western part of the Indian sub-continent, finally merged with the Arabian Sea in the South, the colossal civilization—the Saraswati-Sindhu civilization, developed along this verdant belt, which was more widely spread than the civilizations of Egypt or Greece.
- The Saraswati River ran parallel to the Sindhu River, about two hundred miles east of it. This civilization reached its zenith in the period between 2500 BCE and 1700 BCE. More than fifteen hundred cities developed on the banks of these two great rivers.

The Saraswati civilization

- More than fifteen hundred cities developed on the banks of these two great rivers. In these cities, road were sixty feet wide and there were brick and stone two-story houses, large community baths, and excellent gravity-operated drainage systems.
- There is evidence of art pieces, silk and metal articles, crafts, leather seals, and a large variety of agricultural product and storage facilities.
- These ancient people established reliable marine transport and conducted a trade and cultural relationship with such distant land as Egypt, Greece, Mesopotamia, Babylon, and other, thus making it an honored member of the earliest group of civilizations on Earth.

Chaturdasha Vidyastana

- There are 14 places of Knowledge. They are called Chaturdasha Vidyastana.
  - 4 Vedas
  - 6 Vedangas
  - 4 Upangas
  - And then there are 4 more called Upavedas


Bhartiya Scriptures
Vedas
• Rigved
• Yajurved
• Samved
• Atharvved
Sections of Vedas
• Sanhita
• Brahman
• Aranyak (Upnishads)
Vedang
• Vyakaran
• Jyotish
• Nirukt
• Shikcha
• Chand
• Kalp Sutras
Upved
• Arthved
• Dhanurved
• Gandharvaved
• Ayurved
Smritis
Darshan Shastras
• Poorv Mimansa
• Nyay
• Vaisheshik
• Sankhya
• Yog
• Uttar Mimansa (Brahm Sutra)
Puranas
Bhagwatam
Gita
Itihas
• Ramayan
• Mahabharat
Writings of acharyas, Jagadgurus
Writings of Rasik & Bhakt, Saints

4 Vedas

- Vedas are the oldest surviving literary works in the whole world.
- The experiences of the Rishis (sages) poured out in the form of poetry came to be known as Mantras, which make up the content of the Vedas.
- Veda means 'knowledge'. 'Veda' is derived from the Sanskrit word 'vid'.
  - **Rigveda:** The largest of the four Vedas, with many of its verses appearing in the other Vedas.
  - **Yajurveda:** The book of sacrificial prayers, containing rituals and hymns.
  - **Samaveda:** Represents the power of devotion and the force of spiritual knowledge.
  - **Atharvaveda:** A collection of spells, prayers, charms, and hymns from the Vedic era. It includes prayers to protect crops, charms against venomous serpents, love spells, and healing spells.

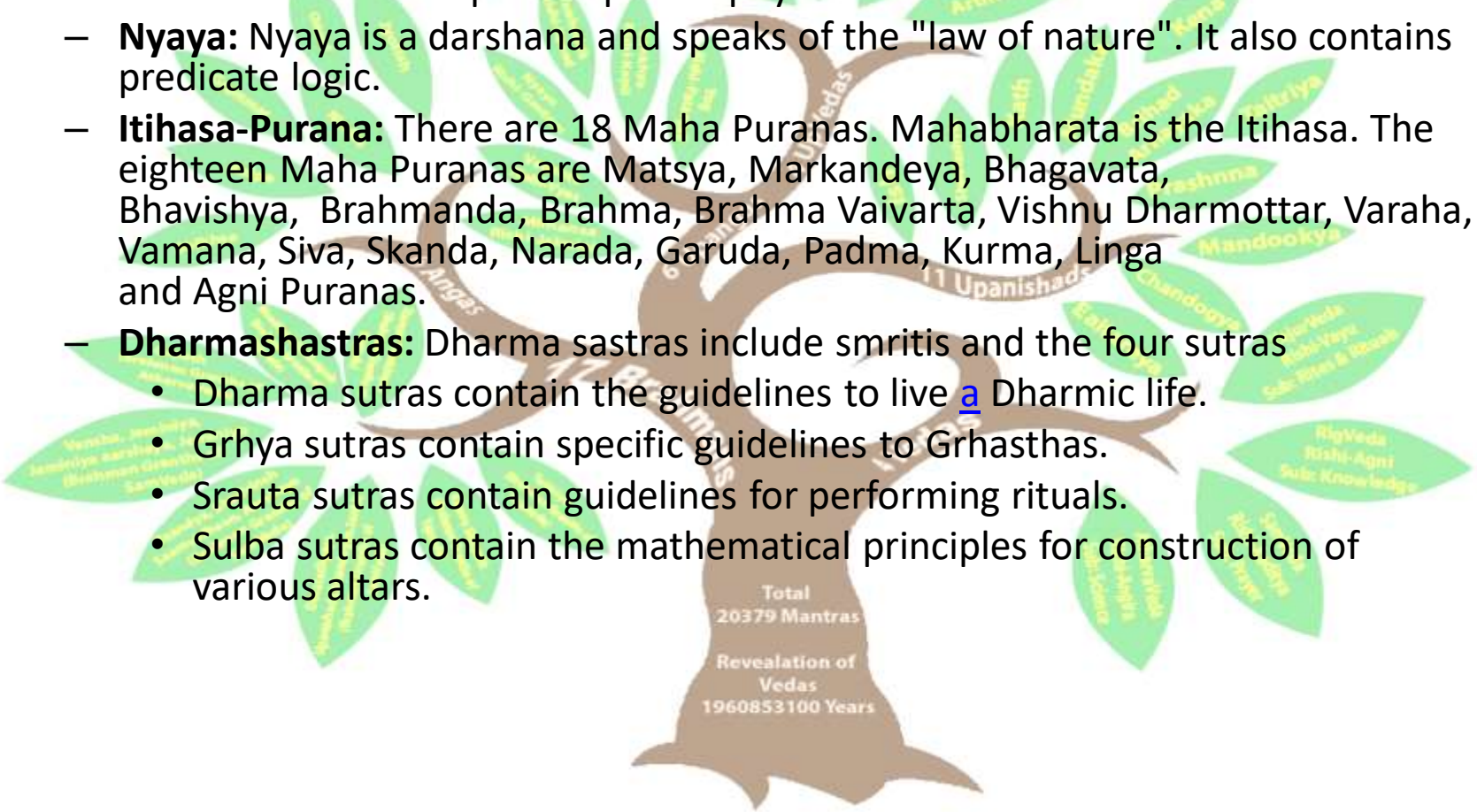
6 Vedangas

- The Vedangas are auxiliary disciplines of Hinduism that evolved to help people understand the Vedas, which were composed centuries earlier. The Vedangas influenced many areas of post-Vedic studies, arts, culture, and Hindu philosophy.
- They are six beautiful sciences that must be studied to understand Vedas correctly
  - **Shiksha:** Phonetics, or the rules of pronunciation and accentuation of Vedic texts
  - **Kalpa:** Rituals and rites of passage
  - **Vyakarana:** Grammar
  - **Nirukta:** Etymology and linguistics
  - **Chandas**: Poetic meter
  - **Jyotisha:** Astronomy and time keeping

VEDANGA	LIMBS COMPARED WITH
Chandah	Legs
Kalpa	Hands
Jyotisa	Eyes
Nirukta	Ears
Siksha	Nose
Vyakaranam	Face

4 Upangas

- The Upangas are derived from the Vedas, which are considered fundamental in importance
  - **Mimamsa:** Mimamsa is a darshana and has two parts - Purva Mimamsa and Uttara Mimamsa. Purva Mimamsa speaks of the philosophy of rituals and Uttara Mimamsa is spiritual philosophy.
  - **Nyaya:** Nyaya is a darshana and speaks of the "law of nature". It also contains predicate logic.
  - **Itihasa-Purana:** There are 18 Maha Puranas. Mahabharata is the Itihasa. The eighteen Maha Puranas are Matsya, Markandeya, Bhagavata, Bhavishya, Brahmanda, Brahma, Brahma Vaivarta, Vishnu Dharmottar, Varaha, Vamana, Siva, Skanda, Narada, Garuda, Padma, Kurma, Linga and Agni Puranas.
  - **Dharmashastras:** Dharma sastras include smritis and the four sutras
    - Dharma sutras contain the guidelines to live a Dharmic life.
    - Grhya sutras contain specific guidelines to Grhasthas.
    - Srauta sutras contain guidelines for performing rituals.
    - Sulba sutras contain the mathematical principles for construction of various altars.



Philosophical Schools

	Philosopher	System	Text
1	Bṛhaspati	*Cārvakadarśana*	*Bṛhaspatyasūtra*
2	Mahāvīra	*Jainadarśana*	*Āgama sāhitya*
3	Siddhārtha Gautama	*Bauddhadarśana*	*Buddha Tripiṭaka*
4	Kapila	*Sāṁkhyadarśana*	*Sāṁkhya-sūtra*
5	Pātanjali	*Yogadarśana*	*Yoga-sūtra*
6	Kaṇāda	*Vaiśeṣikadarśana*	*Vaiśeṣika-sūtra*
7	Gautama	*Nyāyadarśana*	*Nyāya-sūtra*
8	Jaiminī	*Mimāṃsādarśana*	*Mimāṃsā-sūtra*
9	Bādarāyaṇa	*Vedāntadarśana*	*Vedānta-sūtra*

Purva Mimamsa

- Mīmāṁsā, or Mimamsa, is a major school of Hindu philosophy that focuses on the interpretation of the Vedas.
- Mimamsa was established by Sage Jaimini about 400 B.C. It is also known as Purva-Mimamsa and Karma-Mimamsa. Mimamsa has been critical to the development of modern Hinduism and Hindu philosophy, and has also deeply influenced the formulation of Hindu law.
  - **The universe:** Mimamsa views the universe as eternal and does not require a creator. It also believes in the existence of innumerable individual souls and other eternal substances within the world.
  - **The Vedas:** Mimamsa believes the Vedas contain the ultimate truth and are the wellspring of all knowledge.
  - **Dharma:** Mimamsa defines dharma as the set of ritual obligations and prerogatives that maintain the harmony of the world.
  - **Language:** Mimamsa focuses on how language conveys meaning. Mimamsa believes that the primary function of language is to convey commands.
  - **The soul:** Mimamsa holds that the soul is an eternal, omnipresent, inherently active spiritual essence.

Uttara Mimamsa

- The name Uttara Mimamsa is a Sanskrit compound word that means "the latter part of the Mīmāṃsā, i.e. the Vedānta". It's often contrasted with Pūrva Mīmāṃsā, which deals with the ritualistic section of the Vedas.
- Uttara Mimamsa explores the Upanishads, the concluding portions of the Vedas, and emphasizes the concept of Brahman as the ultimate reality. It also investigates the relationship between Brahman and the individual self (Atman).
- **Sub-branches:** Vedanta has three sub-branches: Advaita of Shankaracharya, Vishishta Advaita of Ramanujacharya, and Dvaita of Madhwacharya.
- **Contributions:** Adi Shankara, Ramanuja, and Madhvacharya have contributed to this philosophical tradition.

Darshanas

Vaisheshika

Kanada

Science of logic, futility of maya

Nyaya

Gautama

Logical quest for god, phases of creation

Yoga

Patanjili

Practice of meditation and samadhi for renunciation

Sankhya

Kapil

Eliminate physical and mental pains and receive liberations

Vedanta

Veda Vyas

Explains the devine nature of soul, maya and creation

Mimansa

Jaimini

Explains vedas are eternal and devine

Various Shramana Schools / Heterodox Schools of Indian Philosophy

Jainism

Buddhism

Ajivikas

Ajnanas

Charvakas

- The Puranas are considered to be a central part of Indian culture and the foundation of Sanatana Dharma, also known as Hinduism.
- Originated by Krishna Dvaipayana Vyasa or Veda-Vyasa
- The term 'Purana' literally means old or Itihasas. The Puranas contain earlier Hindu religious stories about Gods and Goddesses, such as Vishnu, Shiva, Durga or Parvati. Besides, there are accounts of the creation of the world and about kings.

पुराण संख्या	पुराण का नाम	श्लोक संख्या
१	ब्रह्म पुराण	१०,०००
२	पद्म पुराण	५५,०००
३	विष्णु पुराण	२३,०००
४	शिव पुराण	२४,०००
५	श्रीमद्भागवत	१८,०००
६	भविष्य पुराण	१४,५००
७	नारद पुराण	२५,०००
८	वाराह पुराण	२४,०००
९	लिंग पुराण	११,०००
१०	ब्रह्म वैवर्त पुराण	१८,०००
११	कूर्म पुराण	१७,०००
१२	मत्स्य पुराण	१४,०००
१३	वामन पुराण	१०,०००
१४	स्कंद पुराण	८१,१००
१५	मार्कंडेय पुराण	९,०००
१६	गरूड़ पुराण	१९,०००
१७	ब्रह्माण्ड पुराण	१२,०००
१८	अग्नि पुराण	१५,४००

4 Upavedas

- The term "upaveda" means "sub-Veda" or "auxiliary Veda". The upavedas are largely secular in nature.
  - **Ayurveda:** Associated with the Atharvaveda, this upaveda is about medicine
  - **Dhanurveda:** Associated with the Yajurveda, this upaveda is about archery
  - **Gandharvaveda:** Associated with the Samaveda, this upaveda is about music and sacred dance
  - **Arthaśāstra**: Associated with the Atharvaveda, this upaveda is about economics and polity

Major Hindu Scriptures

Samhita
- Rigveda
- Yajurveda
- Samaveda
- Atharva

Vedanga
1. Shiksha (phonetics)
2. Vyakarana (grammar)
3. Kalpasutra (Rites, Rules & Geometry)
4. Jyotisha (Astronomy)
5. Nirukta (Etymology)
6. Chhanda (metre)

Dharmashastra
1. Manu
2. Yajnavalkya
3. Apastambaetc

Purana
- Brahma
- Padma
- Vishnu
- Vāyu
- Bhāgavata
- Nārada
- Mārkandeya
- Agni
- Bhavishya
- Brahmavaivarta
- Linga
- Varāha
- Skanda
- Vāmana
- Kūrma
- Matsya
- Garuda
- Brahmānda
- Shiva

Upanishad
1. Brihadaranyaka
2. Aitareya
3. Taittariya
4. Kathaka
5. Kena
6. Mundaka
7. Maandukya
8. Chaandogya
9. Prashna
10. Ishavasya
11. Kaushitaki
12. Shvetashvatara
13. Maitrayani

Ithihaasa
1. Ramayana
2. Mahabharata
   - Gita

Agama
1. Pancharatra
2. Shaiva
3. Shaakta

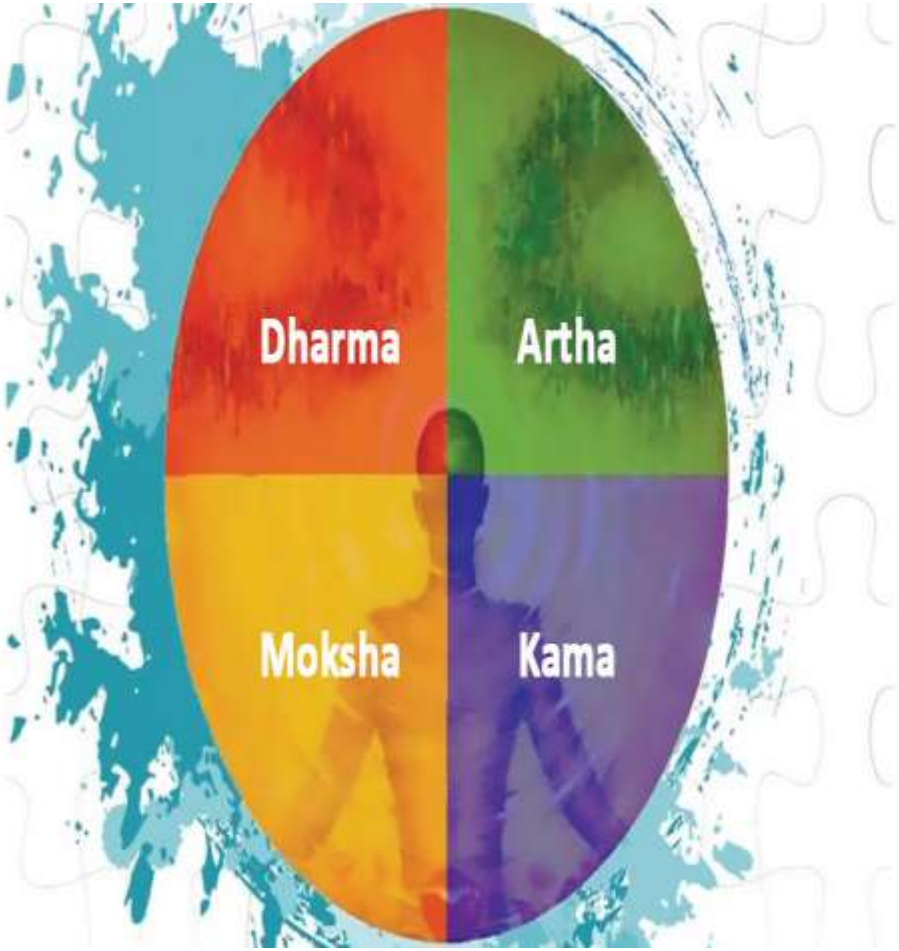
Upavedas
1. Arthashastra
2. Ayurveda
3. Gandharvaveda
4. Dhanurveda
5. Shilpa-Sthapatya

Darshana
1. Nyaaya
2. Vaisheshika
3. Sankhya
4. Yoga
5. Mimamsa
6. Vedanta

Economy in Ancient India

- **Laws of Purushartha**

- Dharma: Hold Moral life(Learn, Knowledge, Ethos, Wisdom, Morality, Duty, Law and Justice)
- Artha: Economic means or wealth, Achievement of rewards, resources and wealth and accumulate them.
- Kama: Emotional fulfilment, Pleasure, Desire fulfilment, need accomplishment.
- Moksha: Self actualization, freedom desires, Liberation, Back to roots.



Source of Economy in Ancient India

- The economy of ancient India was considered as a living civilization due to the evidence of human occupation 10,000 years ago.:
- **Agriculture & food production**
- **Domestication**
- **Industry**
- **Trade**
- **Urban planning**
- **Tools and weapons**
- **Land value**
- **Architecture**

Corporate life in Ancient India

- The Varna system was a social structure in Vedic India that divided society into four classes, or varnas, based on occupation:

Varna	Occupation
Brahmanas	Priests, teachers, scholars, and religious ceremony conductors
Kshatriyas	Rulers, administrators, and warriors
Vaishyas	Farmers, merchants, shopkeepers, and traders
Shudras	Artisans, gardeners, cleaners, and laborers, Service providers